

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Michigan

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Michigan, US Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Michigan NRCS FOTG, Section IV for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Michigan to issue revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. The revised standards include: Forest Harvest Trails and Landings (655) Critical Area Planting (342) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

DATES: Comments will be received on or before November 22, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to Kevin Wickey, Assistant State Conservationist for Technology, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1405 S. Harrison Rd., Room 101, E. Lansing, MI 48823. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request. You may submit electronic requests and comments to kwickey@mi.nrcs.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Wickey, 517-337-6701, ext. 1242.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 393 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law, to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the

NRCS in Michigan will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Michigan regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: October 5, 1999.

Jane E. Hardisty,

State Conservationist, E. Lansing, Michigan.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

[Docket Number 990924263-9263-01]

American Indian and Alaska Native Areas (AIANA) Geographic Program for Census 2000—Proposed Program

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of proposed program and request for public comments.

SUMMARY: This notice includes the proposed program used to designate American Indian and Alaska Native areas (AIANAs) in Census 2000 and describes the changes from the criteria used for the 1990 census, as well as a list of definitions of key terms used in the criteria, and background information. This proposed program will apply to all AIANAs in the United States. The Census Bureau will accept comments on this notice for a period of 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

The Census Bureau uses the collective term AIANAs for Census 2000 to refer to:

- Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRCs),
- Alaska Native village (ANVs) statistical areas,
- Federally recognized American Indian reservations,
- American Indian tribal subdivisions,
- American Indian off-reservation trust lands,
- Tribal designated statistical areas (TDSAs),
- Oklahoma tribal statistical areas (formerly "tribal jurisdiction statistical areas (TJSAs)"),¹

¹ The designation "tribal jurisdiction statistical area" was changed to Oklahoma tribal statistical

• State-recognized American Indian reservations, and

• State-designated American Indian statistical areas (SDAISAs).

The above includes both legally established geographic areas and statistically created geographic areas (see "Definitions of Key Terms" in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section).

Prior to the 1980 census, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget established an ad hoc interagency committee on the American Indian and Alaska Native Population to identify and examine how the federal government could provide improved data for this population. One of the primary tasks of the interagency committee, which included the U.S. Census Bureau and federal agencies with responsibility for funding, planning, or administering programs for this population, was to identify the content and geographic areas for which 1980 census data were needed to fulfill federal legislative and program requirements. In addition to the federal effort, the Census Bureau sought information on data needs from American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and communities as well as state governments.

To meet the diverse data requirements, as well as provide general-purpose statistics, the Census Bureau had to identify and define new geographic areas reflecting, to the extent possible, legally established entities, unique historical tribal homelands, and current settlements of tribal activity.

While aware of the use(s) of data by other federal agencies for program purposes, the Census Bureau does not create geographic frames of reference based on specific federal agency use(s) or need(s). The challenge of developing geographic frames of reference that would produce data for legal entities as well as significant statistical areas was made more difficult by the lack of one definitive source of information, and the differing legal circumstances and geographic settlement patterns of particular tribes. There are both federally recognized and state-recognized tribes with reservations and/or established land bases. While some

area to avoid the mis-perception that such designation constituted recognition or confirmation by the federal government of a particular legal status. The new designation is defined in the "Definitions of Key Terms" section.